

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

(1) A method for trimming a plastic container having an open end, which comprises: providing a multi-station assembly for holding a container during trimming, wherein said assembly includes a plurality of spaced stations and wherein said container traverses stations of said multi-station assembly for operating stages; moving the container to be trimmed onto said multi-station assembly at a first operating stage; moving a knife into engagement with the container to be trimmed at a second operating stage; trimming said container by said knife at a third operating stage, with said container held stationary during trimming; ejecting the trimmed portion at a fourth operating stage; and ejecting the trimmed container at a fifth operating stage.

(2) A method according to claim 1 wherein said container to be trimmed is a blow molded container.

(3) A method according to claim 1, including the step of holding the container to be trimmed stationary beneath the area to be trimmed.

(4) A method according to claim 1, wherein the trimming operation in the second stage occupies a plurality of stations.

(5) A method according to claim 1, wherein separate stages are performed in the area of separate stations.

(6) A method according to claim 1, wherein the upper portion of the trimmed container has a finish portion, and wherein the outer diameter of the trimmed portion is no greater than the outer diameter of the finish portion.

(7) A method according to claim 1, wherein said method is a high speed operation for trimming at least 5,000 containers per hour.

(8) A method according to claim 7, including trimming at least 10,000 containers per hour.

(9) A method according to claim 3, wherein the container is held on a pedestal during its traverse through the multi-station assembly, and by a holder beneath the area to be trimmed to hold the container stationary during trimming.

(10) A method according to claim 1, wherein the knife is cammed into engagement with the container to be trimmed.

(11) An apparatus for trimming a plastic container having an open end, which comprises: a multi-station assembly for holding a container during trimming wherein said assembly includes a plurality of spaced stations and wherein said container traverses stations of said multi-station assembly for operating stages; inlet means to move the container to be trimmed onto said multi-station assembly at a first operating stage; a knife

operative to trim said container; means to move said knife into engagement with said container to be trimmed at a second operating stage; means to move said knife around said container to be trimmed to trim said container at a third operating stage; means to hold the container stationary during trimming; means to eject the trimmed portion at a fourth operating stage; and means to eject the trimmed container at a fifth operating stage.

(12) An apparatus according to claim 11, including means beneath the area to be trimmed to hold the container stationary during the trimming operation.

(13) An apparatus according to claim 11, including a plurality of stations for said trimming.

(14) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said apparatus is a high speed apparatus for trimming at least 5,000 containers per hour.

(15) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein said apparatus is operative to trim at least 10,000 containers per hour.

(16) An apparatus according to claim 12, including a pedestal to hold the container during its traverse through the multi-station assembly, and a holder beneath the area to be trimmed to hold the container stationary during trimming.

(17) An apparatus according to claim 11, including a cam operative to move the knife into engagement with the container to be trimmed.

(18) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein separate stages are performed in the area of separate stations.

(19) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the upper portion of the trimmed container has a finish portion, and providing that the outer diameter of the trimmed portion is no greater than the outer diameter of the finish portion.

(20) An intermediate plastic container for trimming into a final, trimmed container, which comprises:

- a lower portion having a base and sidewall;
- an intermediate finish portion above the lower portion;
- an upper portion to be trimmed above the intermediate finish portion, said upper portion having an open end ;
 - wherein the outer diameter of the upper portion is no greater than the outer diameter of the intermediate finish portion, and including a groove between the upper portion and the intermediate finish portion which defines the area to be trimmed.

(21) An intermediate container according to claim 20, wherein said intermediate container is one of round and non-round.

(22) An intermediate container according to claim 20, wherein said finish portion is one of a threaded finish and a snap-on finish.

(23) An intermediate container according to claim 20, wherein said intermediate container is blow molded.

(24) An intermediate container according to claim 23, wherein said container is polyethylene terephthalate.

(25) An intermediate container according to claim 20 suitable for trimming off the upper portion wherein the container is held in a stationary position during trimming.

(26) An intermediate container according to claim 20, including an even distribution of wall thickness in the finish portion to enhance trimming effectiveness.

(27) An intermediate container according to claim 20, wherein said finish portion is a heat set finish.